

36, township 25 north, range 22 east, which sections are adjoining. From that time forward, this district has been called "The First Belgian Settlement" (Fr., *Aux Premier Belges*).

Here the little colony lost no time in hunting the deer and bears which at that time were in abundance in the neighborhood. Each having selected as much land as he wanted, paid the government \$1.25 per acre, and at once began to build small hewed-log houses which they covered with cedar bark, making benches with split blocks, beds with branches and leaves, and using their trunks for tables. For several days and nights, they were obliged to live and sleep in the open air, with nothing above their heads but the canopy of heaven. On the second night after their arrival, there came a terrific rain-storm which drenched them to the skin. Philip Hannon and wife, both of whom are yet living, informed the writer that all they had to protect themselves and their goods from that pouring rain was one umbrella.

The little party were ten miles away from any house, in a virgin forest consisting of a thick growth of pine, maple, beech, cedar, basswood, etc.,—many of the trees being five and even six feet in diameter, and some over a hundred and fifty feet high,—without roads of any kind, not even a trail; with no neighbors, no horses, no cattle; nothing but the occasional visit of a wolf, a deer or a bear, coming around their little huts, and on more than one occasion taking the pork they had brought with them. These and the other hardships incident to frontier life of those days, would have discouraged many people under the same circumstances, but not this brave little band. Their firm belief in Providence, and the desire for self-improvement, gave them courage and strength to acquire a competence in the near future for themselves and their children.

They had promised their friends and relatives at home, that, as soon as they had settled in the New World, they would write to them the facts and circumstances of their voyage, their arrival, and their settlement. This promise